

**THE POPULATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
THE ASSOCIATION OF POPULATION CENTERS**

2100 M Street, 5th Floor, PSC

Washington, DC 20037

paaapc@ari.net

Phone: (202) 261-5317 Fax: (301) 565-2134

The Population Association of America (PAA) and the Association of Population Centers (APC) are deeply concerned with recent reports that challenge the validity and integrity of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) peer review process. NIH's peer review process is a highly competitive, apolitical system that awards funding to research of the utmost scientific merit. NIH research applications are reviewed by experts from research institutions throughout the country; these experts evaluate and rank scientific quality and importance of research proposals.

Recent attempts by special interest groups and certain members of Congress to discredit numerous NIH-funded scientists and their research are based on political and ideological values, rather than their contribution to accumulating knowledge. Much of the research in question concerns the behavior of at-risk populations. The failure to study these populations would prohibit scientists from exploring the threats these behaviors cause to the social, economic and public health of our nation.

PAA and APC strongly urge defeat of any politically or ideologically driven attempts to interfere with NIH's peer review system.

The Population Association of America (PAA) is a scientific, educational and charitable organization of over 3,000 individual members whose purpose is to promote the improvement, advancement, and progress of the human race by means of research with respect to problems connected with human population, in both its quantitative and qualitative aspects, and the dissemination and publication of the results of such research. PAA members include demographers, sociologists, economists and public health professionals with a wide array of research interests, including retirement, minority health, disability and long term care, child care, immigration, labor force participation, worker retraining, family formation and dissolution and population forecasting.

The Association of Population Centers (APC) is a scientific, educational and charitable association of over 30 universities and research groups whose mission is to foster collaborative demographic research and data sharing, translate basic population research for

public policy decision-makers, and provide educational and training opportunities in population studies. APC, which includes individual research organizations such as RAND and the Urban Institute, also works to support the principle of scientific and/or established public advisory council review and evaluation of grant applications, and to insulate funded research projects from political inference.